

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)

Hawk's Cay, 61 Hawk's Cay Blvd., Duck Key, FL

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Attending - Members

Rob Barton

Mike Bauer

Scott Benyon

Bill Brandt

Al Calloway

Walter Carson

Christina Casado-Acorn

Michael Collins, Chair

Joan Davis

Dennis Duke

Beverly Grady

Richard Harvey

Patrick Hayes

James Humble

Barbara Miedema

Jim Murley

Jim Reynolds

Terrance "Rock" Salt

Judy Sanchez

Kim Shugar

Jody Thomas

Howard Wegis

WRAC Alternates:

John Adornato

Thomas Bausch

Kelly Brooks

Gene Duncan

Jaime Furgang

Bertha Goldenberg

Carolyn Kennedy

Joan Lawrence

Sally Robinson

Patti Webster

Samantha Whitcraft

Call to Order. Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone and provided information on the agenda and joint meeting.

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission of the South Florida Water Management District determines that good cause exists to make the following changes.

Change made to the order of Items 2, 3 & 4 and a presenter change on Item 7.

1. Member Issues: Mike Collins, Chair.

Rob Barton: He spoke of the damage done by Hurricane Wilma to the area around Naples, Florida. As Chair of the WRAC Recreational Advisory Issues Workshop he provided an update on the Stormwater Treatment Area project as it relates to recreational activities. A copy of Mr. Barton's report is made an official record of this meeting and is available from the District Clerk's Office.

Chair Collins provided additional information on the public access issue and stated this is a very important matter to members of the public.

Mr. Barton continued his report and gave further information.

John Adornato: He stated that past presentations made to the WRAC are appreciated regarding restoration programs. Acceler8 projects moving forward are appreciated. Lingering concerns were expressed on the location of the spreader canals. The critical locations for spreader canals were explained for Florida Bay.

Beverly Grady: She reported that they have had an active month with several issues on the West Coast. Concerns on the quality and quantity of discharges to the estuaries were listed. The water flows from east to west versus north to south were discussed. Shared diversity is important. At the next WRAC meeting she requested an agenda item on *Shared Diversity*.

Patrick Hayes: An update on the Stormwater Management Issues Workshops was requested. Lake Okeechobee Committee meeting had a report by Dr. Jones of the Florida Institute University and Mr. Hayes reported on what was presented. Request made for an agenda item next month on the WRAC Stormwater sub-committee and the realistic issue of volume, etc.

Jody Thomas: A recent report to Congress was mentioned and she asked that the WRAC take a lead in working with Federal agencies and be proactive on ecological issues. Land acquisition funding is an important issue to be considered by WRAC.

Walter Carson: As the Chair of the WRAC Stormwater Management Issues Workshop he reported on the activities. Another meeting will be scheduled in January 2006.

Informational Announcement:

Chair Collins had distributed to the Committee a report entitled *Johns Hopkins University – Multi-criteria Decision Analysis Survey: The Comprehensive Everglades Plan*, by Darlene Quinto. He informed the group that this was Ms. Quinto's doctoral thesis and he said there are some legitimate and important issues in this report. He asked that they read the report and complete a questionnaire at the back of the report. Once they have completed the questionnaire they should return it to WRAC staff members and they will get it back to Ms. Quinto. Dennis Duke reported that Ms. Quinto still works for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and is stationed in Oregon.

2. EAA Reservoir Basis of Design Report – Acceler8 Project, by Shawn Waldeck, P.E., Acceler8 Project Manager, SFWMD.

Mr. Waldeck presented information on this item. Topics discussed included the project purpose; overall plan; reservoir site as it looks today and how it will look when completed in 2009; typical embankment cross-section picture; modeling; graph of mean annual flood control releases; modeling results; project assurance requirements; documentation of project assurances; general operations; average annual inflows and outflows; freeboard requirements; stages in Lake Okeechobee; test cells; areas potentially affected by seepage; typical cross-section; seepage controls; potential

recreational opportunities; schedule for EAA Reservoir A-1; cost summary; stakeholder presentations; issues identified at stakeholder meetings; and the goals and objectives.

Questions and Answers:

Mr. Hayes asked about the overall plan in the EAA Reservoir A-1, and the protection programs to Lake Okeechobee, including water storage and modeling. Mr. Waldeck provided information.

Ms. Grady asked about the figures of “inches in the Lake equals acre feet” and what the amount would be; the percentages on average of water in the Lake; numbers on projects; etc. Mr. Waldeck and Dennis Duke provided information.

Mr. Barton spoke of the sidewalls on the structure and asked if they could be used for recreational use, and asked about littoral zones. Mr. Waldeck provided information. There are no tree islands or any other large mounds or vegetation.

Mr. Calloway asked about the level of participation in the construction project by the citizens in the areas of Belle Glades, Clewiston, South Bay, and the inner cities. Mr. Waldeck provided information.

Chair Collins gave information on the issue and reported that public and elected officials have had the opportunity to participate. The level of participation of the people concerned was discussed. Chair Collins suggested Mr. Calloway work with staff to gain further information regarding current and future outreach efforts, money expended, job opportunities in the area, etc. Chair Collins said a presentation would be scheduled on this matter regarding the outreach efforts of SFWMD regarding training opportunities, etc. for the citizens of western Palm Beach County.

Mr. Wade reported on the Lake Levee and the concern by the cities' residents that live around the Lake. He told the Commission that George Horne, Deputy Executive Director for Operations & Maintenance, SFWMD is leading a group that will gather information and then inform the citizens what is occurring around the Lake levee and provide information on outreach efforts. Alvin Jackson, SFWMD Outreach Manager, Acceler8, is working with the affected communities on this matter.

Kelly Brooks asked about water deliveries and modeling in the EAA. Mr. Waldeck explained optimization of the reservoirs and environmental withdrawals. Total environmental water delivery was discussed.

Scott Benyon asked about pre-existing conditions and reduction in backpumping deliveries. Mr. Waldeck provided information.

Mr. Duke spoke of the existing Regulation Schedule for Lake Okeechobee and the changes to the schedule that would need to be completed. The volume of the water and management of the water is very important.

Jaime Furgang asked for further information on reduced groundwater in the EAA, flood protection enhancements, and the recreational activities issues. Mr. Waldeck provided information.

3. Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP) for Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) and C-111 Projects, Update, by Paul Linton, Chief Consulting Engineer, and Sean Sculley, Deputy Director Watershed Management Dept., SFWMD.

Mr. Linton presented information on the following items: the description of the MWD ENP Project and C-111 Canal Projects; an overview of how alternative 5R perform; ISOP; information on S-332-B and C; information on pre-storm operations; detention areas; and reduction in damaging flows to Florida Bay.

Bill Brandt spoke on the water supply and water quality for Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer. Mr. Linton provided comment. Chair Collins reported that technical issues should be addressed by some other staff member at SFWMD. Dennis Duke was able to provide information on water seepage, water quality and the Regulation Schedule 3A. Mr. Duke reported that 2007 is the anticipated timeframe for beginning changes to the schedule.

Gene Duncan asked about the figures showing high concentrations of phosphorus and flooding in WCA 3. Mr. Linton provided information.

Terrence "Rock" Salt provided information on MOD waters. This is not CERP. He provided additional information on the Department of Interior's efforts in this area. Mr. Duncan provided further information.

Chair Collins gave information on the issue and said that place markers should be put in place for Florida Bay.

Jamie Furgang asked Mr. Linton for clarification of figures shown in his presentation. Mr. Linton provided information. The capacity to move the water was discussed.

Samantha Whitcraft asked about the reduction in damaging flows to Florida Bay and how it relates to actual seasonality. Mr. Linton provided information.

Terrance "Rock" Salt asked about the flows and the ultimate benefit of "natural" flows through the Park. The flows going into Shark Slough were discussed. Mr. Linton provided additional information.

John Adornato expressed his concerns regarding not getting enough water out of WCA 3A. He asked for clarification on previous information that was given in a presentation. Mr. Duke gave information on CSOP and water deliveries. CSOP and CERP implementation were discussed.

Barbara Miedema spoke to this issue and provided additional information on water deliveries and new water made available by the projects. Water quality assurances were discussed.

Chair Collins spoke of the “pre-existing” conditions for CERP and the concern for not flooding in WCA-3A. The important part is putting the place markers in to be assured of the water flows.

Mr. Adornato provided additional comment on the lack of assurances that this project will deliver sufficient water to Florida Bay.

Chair Collins said the flood control issues will be addressed.

Ms. Grady asked for information on the rainfalls, moving water in the estuaries, EAA water flows, total water releases average, and other issues. Mr. Linton and Chair Collins provided information.

Chair Collins reported on shared adversity, peak flows, and other important points from the presentation. Ms. Grady provided information on high water flows. Chair Collins said that all the options need to be looked at to provide assistance to the estuaries.

4. Lake Okeechobee Operations and Water Conditions Summary, by Cal Neidrauer, Chief Consulting Engineer, Operations Control Dept., SFWMD; and Susan Gray, Director, Lake Okeechobee Division, SFWMD.

Mr. Neidrauer presented information on the current and past water conditions for the wet seasons of 2004 and 2005. Information on the system water levels and regulations stages was provided. This has been a record-setting Atlantic Hurricane season. Current operations data for Lake Okeechobee and the Water Conservation Areas was provided. The climate and hydrologic outlook was given. The November 2005 position analysis for WCA-3A was given.

Char Collins provided information on water conditions. Historic conditions have been reached. The estuaries are problems for both coasts.

Ms. Furgang asked what Audubon could do regarding the changes to the WSE. She provided comment on current water conditions. Deviations in the presentations were questioned and Mr. Neidrauer provided information. Ms. Furgang spoke on recommendations regarding pulse releases. Mr. Neidrauer gave information on the USACOE activities regarding releases.

Lake Okeechobee Status Conditions by Susan Gray.

Dr. Gray reported that the Lake is now on a downward trend and staff will continue to work with the USACOE on issues. Presentation contained information on total

suspended solids; total phosphorus; total nitrogen; submerged aquatic vegetation; exotics control; and the same November 2005 Position Analysis presented by Mr. Neidrauer. The prognosis for December 2005 through May 2006 was provided.

Chair Collins said the Water Conditions Reporting will continue. Getting the Lake levels down is a priority and less rainfall will be welcome.

Public Comment:

Mark Perry, representing the Florida Oceanographic Society, commented on the data points on the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie River. A lot more data is being collected in the estuary. Water releases to get the Lake lower by May is a good thing and he is in favor of that. Level 1 pulse releases is needed. CSOP and EAA presentations today provided good information and that is encouraging. He requested that the "cost of operations" be included in future presentations.

Chair Collins provided additional information.

5. SFWMD Florida Keys Service Center Update, by Cecelia Weaver, Service Center Director, SFWMD.

Ms. Weaver presented information on the following issues: partnerships with other service centers; District services to the public; serves the South Florida water system; the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act; the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; the 2005 partnerships to identify Florida Keys water resource issues; the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority; Florida Keys Green Living and Energy Expo; the problem of undesirable water quality; tourism based economy; water quality degradation; stormwater runoff; stressors on marine ecosystem; water quality protection program by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and allocation of state and federal funding allocations.

The Florida Keys Water Resource Initiative was explained and the projects were discussed. The new SFWMD initiative to protect the Florida Keys Ecosystem was reviewed.

Mike Bauer asked about the FDOT mitigation regarding the 18-mile stretch along U. S. 1 in the Florida Keys. Ms. Weaver said she was not that familiar with the project and could provide no information.

Ms. Young provided positive comments on the partnerships.

James Murley asked for the status of a project and Ms. Weaver provided comment.

Ms. Whitcraft asked for the name of a contact on a project and Ms. Weaver provided information.

Public Comment:

Captain Ed Davidson, Florida Keys, provided information the 18-mile road construction project along U.S. 1 by the Florida Department of Transportation. Mitigation was discussed. Evacuation means for hurricanes and the other issues were commented upon.

Adjourn WRAC meeting at 11:50 a.m.

South Florida Ecosystems Restoration Task Force/WRAC Joint Meeting

Attending – WRAC Members

Mike Bauer	Dennis Duke	Judy Sanchez
Scott Benyon	Beverly Grady	Ray Scott
Bill Brandt	Patrick Hayes	Kim Shugar
Al Calloway	James Humble	Jody Thomas
Walter Carson	Barbara Miedema	Joe Walsh
Christina Casado-Acorn	Jim Murley	Howard Wegis
Michael Collins, Chair	Jim Reynolds	
Joan Davis	Terrance “Rock” Salt	

WRAC Alternates:

John Adornato	Jaime Furgang	Sally Robinson
Thomas Bausch	Bertha Goldenberg	Patti Webster
Kelly Brooks	Carolyn Kennedy	Samantha Whitcraft
Gene Duncan	Joan Lawrence	

Task Force Members:

Colleen Castille (Dept of Env Protection)
Michael Collins (WRAC)
Jose “Pepe” Diaz (Miami-Dade Commissioner)
George Dunlap (US Dept of the Army)
Brett Fewell (for Benjamin Grumbles, U.S. Env. Protection Agency)
Joette Lorian (for Dexter Lehtinen – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians)
Greg May (South Florida Eco Restoration Task Force)
Jim Murley (for Mayor Clarence Anthony)
Rock Salt (for Marti Albright, US Dept of the Interior)

Working Group Members:

Dennis Duke (USACOE)
Gene Duncan (Miccosukee Tribe of Indians)
Richard Harvey (Env Protection Agency)
Ray Scott (Fla. Dept of Ag & Consumer Services)
Kim Shugar (Fla. Dept of Env Protection)

6. Opening Remarks and Administrative Items by Marti Albright and Mike Collins.

Co-Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. He asked WRAC members to state their name and affiliation when speaking on an issue.

Rock Salt announced that Ms. Albright is leaving the Department of Interior at the end of month. Today she is unable to attend this meeting as she has been called to meet with the President of the United States, George Bush, in the Oval Office in Washington,

DC. He will be the Co-Chair today with Mike Collins. He recognized past Chair Colleen Castille. All Task Force members introduced themselves.

Announcement made that there would be a “No Host” social at 6:00 p.m. tonight.

7. Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP) Advisory Team Update, by Roy Rogers.

Co-Chair Salt presented to the Task Force the team's remarks. A number of the CSOP Advisory Team members were attending this meeting and he recognized them. A two-page document entitled “CSOP Advisory Team - Recommendations to the Task Force” was distributed. There were consensus comments that focused on Alternative 5 which was the final alternative in the set. An overview of the CSOP alternatives and a summary of the alternative modeling results were provided.

Joette Lorian, representing Dexter Lehtinen for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, stated that as a non-voting member of the CSOP, but a representative, she has sat through 22 meetings. Some type of agreement needs to be reached while trying to get as much restoration as possible. She made a Motion to reconvene the CSOP Task Force Team. No second was made to the Motion. Ms. Lorian commended the CSOP Advisory Team. Co-Chair Salt asked her to hold the Motion until all the questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Diaz thanked the CSOP Advisory Team for the great work they have done and he is very supportive of them. Mr. Diaz asked that the report be adopted with no objections. Co-Chair Salt asked if there were any objections by members of the Task Force and none were voiced. The report was accepted. He spoke of concerns he had with the report, but said he is basically very happy with the report.

Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, CERP/Acceler8, SFWMD, provided comment on the Fish and Wildlife jeopardy opinion on the sparrow. Ms. Lorian spoke on the sparrow issue. Co-Chair Collins said there would be opportunity to speak on that issue later in the presentation.

Debbie Harrison, World Wildlife Fund, welcomed everyone to the Florida Keys. She spoke of the declines in Florida Bay and Everglades restoration. The C-111 Spreader Canal project was discussed. The water quality component and backwater component have been separated and she is against this being done. She encouraged the committee members to put the two items back together into the C-111 Spreader Canal project.

Madeline Fortin reported that as a member of the CSOP Team, consensus was reached on what was to be accomplished. With continued work, a resolution will be reached to satisfy all stakeholders.

Captain Ed Davidson, Florida Keys resident, provided comments on the C111 Spreader Canal.

Return to Presentation:

Co-Chair Salt provided comment on the CSOP project.

Dennis Duke presented information on the CSOP and said a detailed presentation had been made in the morning by Paul Linton. The presentation contained information on the Alternative Formulation Process; including a description of the MWD ENP Project and C-111 Canal Projects; an overview of how alternative 5R perform; ISOP; minimum flows and levels; Miccosukee Reserve Area; information on S-332-B and C; utilization of the C-111 Detention Area; and CSOP Alternatives: Performance Evaluation Summary.

Jay Slack, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provided information on the history of CSOP and the analysis that has been provided. On its face, he believes this is going in the right direction.

Ms. Lorion spoke on MOD Waters and modeling. She asked for further clarification on the constraints and Mr. Slack provided information. The natural systems model was discussed. The jeopardy situation to the seaside sparrow was discussed. Ms. Lorion said the current position that is being taken is of the utmost concern to the Tribe.

Mr. Ammon asked about impacts and multi-species. Mr. Slack provided information.

Ms. Lorion commented on other species that were affected by high water and asked the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to look at multi-species.

Co-Chair Salt provided information on multi-species. Peter Horton spoke on the natural system models. Co-Chair Collins commented on the tools used in managing the system. Mr. Slack gave additional information on impacts to species all over South Florida.

Gene Duncan spoke of linkage between closing of the gates and problems with multi-species.

Co-Chair Salt asked Ms. Lorion to make her request in the form of a Motion.

- Motion made by Ms. Lorion to reconvene the CSOP Team for the purpose of providing the Task Force with consensus recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. Mr. Diaz provided comment. Vote Called for by Task Members. All voted yes. Motion passed.

8. Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan Overview (LOER), by Susan Gray, Director, Lake Okeechobee Division, SFWMD.

Dr. Gray provided an overview of the estuary restoration program. The primary benefits are to improve water quality; expand water storage; enhance lake health; and facilitate land acquisition. Dr. Gray reported that the area is in a wet cycle and issues are being captured. This is a multi-agency action and the SFWMD is partnering with several governmental agencies. The Governor and SFWMD Governing Board are very involved in this matter. At the January Governing Board meeting a report will be given on the draft LOER Plan (Plan).

Measurable improvements to the health of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries are the goal of the Plan. This is a bold Plan. A series of capital projects will be initiated. The primary benefits were outlined.

Information on Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects was provided. A summary of the key components of the Plan was provided. The five construction projects north of Lake Okeechobee were discussed.

The revised Lake Okeechobee Regulation schedule was reviewed. By working with the USACOE, this will achieve a better balance among lake management solutions. Information on the TMDLs for Lake Okeechobee tributaries was given, along with mandatory fertilizer BMPs. The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) criteria process includes the Kissimmee River, as well as all the estuaries. Information on alternative storage and disposal of excess surface water was provided. Land Use Planning was discussed. Elimination of Land Applications of Residuals was another topic presented. The continued implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program (LOPP) & CERP & Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project (LOWP) was discussed.

The plan benefits are to expand water storage, facilitate land acquisition, and enhance the health of the Lake. Again, Governor Bush is very interested and involved in this program.

Co-chair Collins said alternatives are still being investigated.

Patrick Hayes asked for additional action to be taken on critical problems and environmental resource permitting (ERP), volume changes to permits, and use changes. He stated that without doing that you would not be addressing the cause of many of the problems. He asked for the WRAC members to be solicited to have input into this process. Colleen Castille said this should be a public process during Rulemaking, as well.

Jody Thomas spoke on the increase of applications for permits in the Upper Basin. This will affect water storage and water supplies. She commended the group for including this in the program.

Jim Murley presented a document from Mayor Clarence Anthony that relates to the Lake Okeechobee Plan. This was a Lake Okeechobee Tri-City document and he stated that the southeast shoreline has cities in Palm Beach County (Belle Glade, South Bay

and Clewiston) have taken the initiative to try to assist in the redevelopment of their cities. They are very pleased with their governmental cooperation. Innovative land use solutions are important. Mr. Murley thanked the chairs and the committee for presenting information on this issue.

Mark Perry, representing the Florida Oceanographic Society, commented that he attended the presentation by Governor Bush back in October on LOER. This is good plan, but more action needs to be taken as soon as possible. Disposal of surface water was discussed.

9. Restoration Update by Dennis Duke.

The Corps provided an update on restoration programs and projects in South Florida. The current program was outlined.

Mr. Duke reported that \$60 million has been funded for FY 2006 for the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (ENP). Ms. Castille said this is an historic moment and she thanked all the people in the room who worked so hard to achieve this goal.

The Everglades National Park Expansion and Protection Act of 1989 were reviewed. Information on the completion status was given. The 8.5 Square Mile Project contract was awarded in September 2005. Information on land acquisition was provided.

Tamiami Trail modifications and historical flows across the trail were reviewed. Analysis of bridge options was reviewed.

Information on the Kissimmee River Restoration project was presented. Project cost is \$572.4 million and is a 50/50 cost share project between the Corps and SFWMD.

Information on critical ecosystem restoration projects was provided. Total cost share is \$150 million.

Presentation continued with information on the Continuing Authorities Program, with more detailed information on the several projects.

Information on the Guidance Memoranda current status and the Interim Goals and Interim Targets, the five year report to Congress, and a special report on exotics, was given.

10. Acceler8 Update by Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, CERP/Acceler8, SFWMD.

Mr. Ammon provided information on the eight (8) restoration projects and their location. A chart showing the additional amount of storage that will be available was provided and entitled *The Reservoir & STA's Storage Volume Per Year STA's depth: 4 ft.* The

Project implementation Report status for Acceler8 Projects as of October 31, 2005 was presented. The Design Status for Acceler8 Projects as of October 31, 2005 was also presented.

Information on upcoming activities was given. The solicitation summary through January 2006 was shown on a chart. Major accomplishments for the Acceler8 anniversary were discussed. This was a partnership between the Governor, SFWMD Governing Board, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Interior, and other agencies.

Mr. Duncan asked about the schedule for the C-33 and C-44 and Mr. Ammon provided information. This is still in the planning process.

Ms. Lorion asked about funding. Mr. Ammon said the current source is ad valorem funding. Information on bonds was provided.

Mr. Hayes asked about storage volume on Acceler8 projects and where the area covered would be and Mr. Ammon provided information.

Mr. Furgang asked about the seepage project and Co-Chair Collins provided information on the levels of support (legislative funding). Co-Chair Collins spoke of all the efforts to obtain funding for projects down south.

Mr. Adornato asked about the estimate for the costs for the C-111 Spreader Canal for Acceler8. Mr. Ammon provided information and spoke of the land acquisition efforts that must be done. Mr. Adornato commented on backfilling and how this needs to be in conjunction with the project. General discussion on this issue between Mr. Ammon and Mr. Adornato. Co-chair Salt provided additional information.

Mr. Hayes asked about the storage volume and he asked for clarification. Mr. Ammon provided detailed information.

Ms. Furgang commented on the pumping through the C-111 Spreader Canal and said this would be zero in the amount of restoration. Mr. Ammon provided information.

Ms. Thomas asked how much land was needed and Mr. Ammon said it is not clear that the exact amount of land is required as it is still going through the PIR process. The Basis of Design Report will look at things like that.

Public Comment:

Kenneth Morley, representing himself, Islamorada, Florida, commented on the projects and the process for implementing them. He stated this was a very good process. The value that this would add will greatly enhance restoration in Florida Bay.

Ralph Boragine, Executive Director, representing Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association, Marathon, Florida, provided comment and stated he has worked on having the Florida Bay project approved and he urged work to begin on the C-111 Spreader Canal. It is needed.

Kathleen Patton, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, commented that she appreciated all the work being done on the restoration of Florida Bay. The Everglades Forever Act of 1994 was quoted. A Resolution was passed by the Council and she gave information on the five specific counts of the Resolution. The group appreciates all the work that has been done to restore Florida Bay. (A copy of the Resolution is made a part of the official record of this meeting.)

Mr. Ammon said the budget for the C-111 Spreader Canal restoration project is \$40 million for construction only. A handout entitled *Acceler8 Anniversary Detailed Accomplishments* is available to any interested party.

8. Land Acquisition Task Team Items, by Theresa Woody.

The 2005 Land Acquisition Strategy will be provided to the Task Force for acceptance. The Natural Lands Report, which is due to Congress in December 2005, will be presented. The report findings were presented to the Task Force and the WRAC.

Mr. Duncan asked about a chart in the report and asked if there was a shift in the condemnation policies. Ms. Woody gave answers to his questions on this issue. Ms. Castille provided information on the matter. Co-Chair Salt said further information is needed to answer Mr. Duncan's questions. Ms. Castille stated FDEP's position on the matter. Ms. Lorion said the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida cannot support the document because of condemnation of lands and they will vote "no" on the report.

Ms. Furgang spoke on the comments and feedback Audubon has received. She commended Ms. Woody for trying to get everyone's comments included in the report.

Co-Chair Salt said it is a fact that the issue on condemnation has to be sorted out. He asked if there were any objections to accepting the report from the Task Force. The report entitled *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy*, dated September 15, 2005, was accepted by the Task Force.

Presentation continued with information on the *Land Acquisition Task Team Status of Report to Congress on Acquisition of Natural Lands*.

Ms. Woody said the purpose of the report is to identify and prioritize land necessary to achieve natural system restoration goals for the South Florida Ecosystem; identify acquisition funding strategies including innovative partnerships; and identify timeline for acquiring prioritized lands for restoration purposes. The scope of the report was identified. The prioritization criteria for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, as well as

the results of analysis, were provided. The next steps are to continue map refinements, continue text edits, and first draft will be available in January 2005.

Ms. Thomas provided comment on the opportunities that need to be taken advantage of for partnerships. Development of a process to focus effort to acquire land needed for restoration is very important.

Co-Chair Salt spoke of opportunities that need to be taken advantage of and he said he appreciated the comments of Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Lorion said the report stated that the land had been acquired - all the land - and the report are factually incorrect. Co-Chair Salt provided information on this matter.

9. Next Steps and Closing Comments.

Public Comment:

Dan Clark, Broward County, commented on water being diverted into the Hillsborough Canal. The water is polluted. This is a problem. He provided information on hurricane damage and water being diverted to tide. An update on *The Broward Beach Project* was given by Mr. Clark. He asked the group to look closely at the STAs.

Stephanie Clark spoke on ecosystem restoration and the help that is needed. Several groups are working independently and she believes a way needs to be found to have the groups work together. A liaison needs to be named to work with the agencies to conserve efforts and information. STAs are a priority.

Committee Comments:

Patrick Hayes said the National Gold Medal Award for Outstanding State Parks Systems was awarded to Florida for the second time. The Florida Park System is the number one state park system in the country.

Jamie Furgang announced that she has a copy of the WSE recommendations and it is available to all interested parties. She asked anyone interested to contact her for a copy.

10. (Assignments to the Director and Sub-Groups) – No action taken.

11. Adjournment at 5:30 p.m.

Joint No Host Social at 6:00 p.m.

Michael Collins, Chair
Water Resources Advisory Commission

Recorded By:

Paula Moree
Staff Business Operations Analyst
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD